

By Tony Burton • Apr 09, 2025

Smart Brevity® count: 3 mins...783 words

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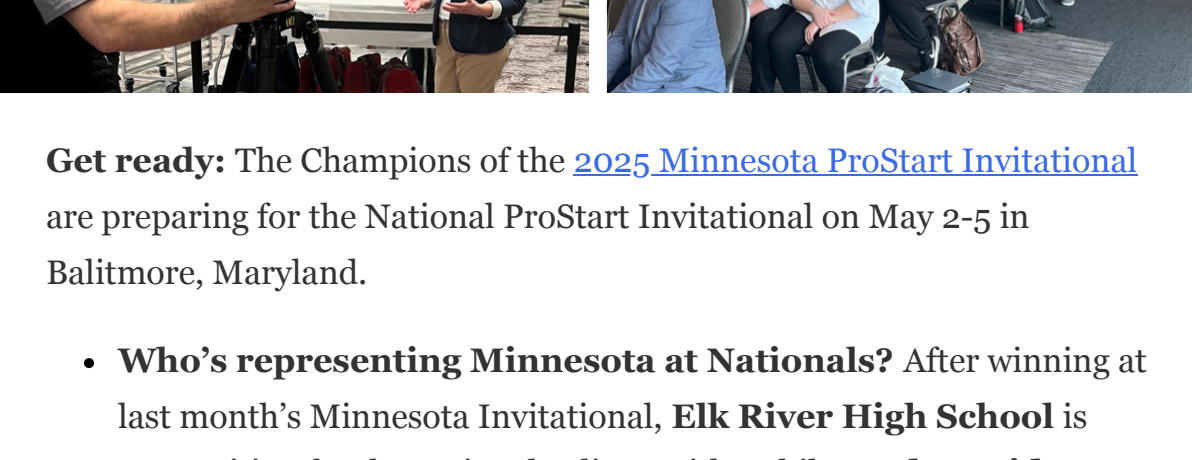
- New ProStart Champions Preparing for Next Month's National Competition
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We would like to thank our Workforce Insider Sponsor - [Sheraton Minneapolis Downtown Convention Center](#) - for their contributions and commitment to Minnesota's hospitality industry!

Support HMEF and its work to cultivate the workforce hospitality needs.

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New ProStart Champions Preparing for Next Month's National Competition



Get ready: The Champions of the [2025 Minnesota ProStart Invitational](#) are preparing for the National ProStart Invitational on May 2-5 in Baltimore, Maryland.

- **Who's representing Minnesota at Nationals?** After winning at last month's Minnesota Invitational, **Elk River High School** is competing for the national culinary title, while **Sauk Rapids-Rice High School** is competing for the national management title.

- To get a full list of the top teams from last month's Minnesota Invitational, [click here](#).

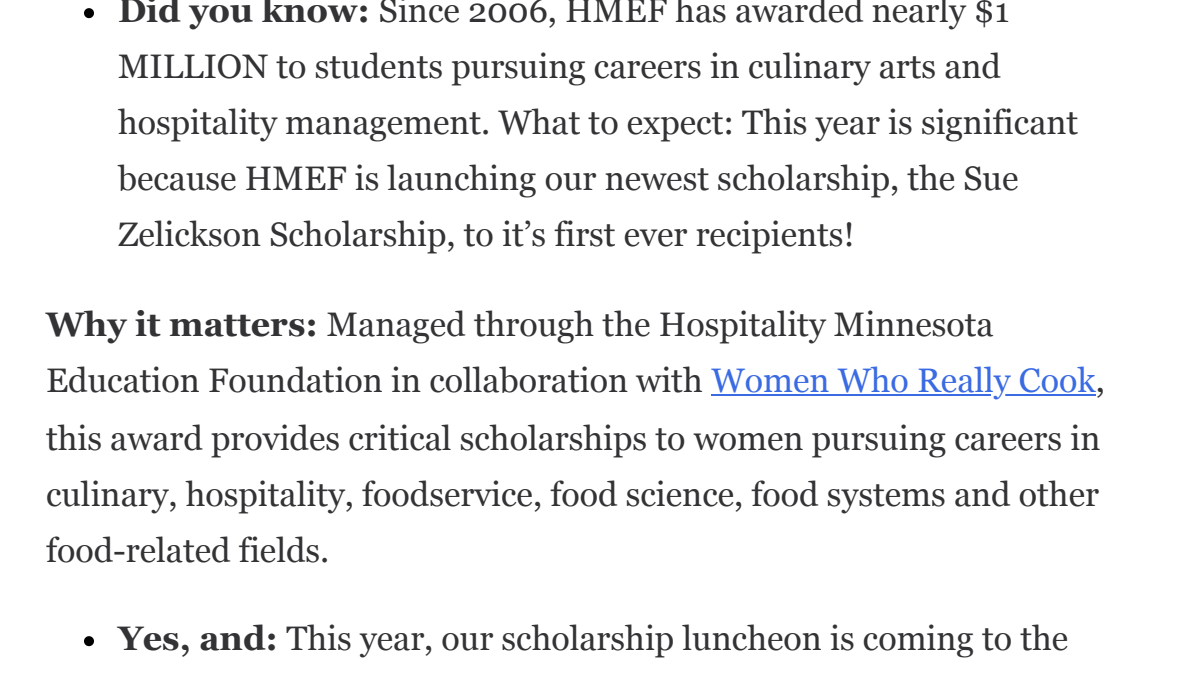
Go deeper: Check out the media coverage of the event here:

- [Elk River High School culinary arts team wins ProStart state championship](#) | Elk River Star News

- [Culinary Competition](#) | KSTP



Join Our Scholarship Recipients at the 2025 HMEF Scholarship Luncheon



You're invited: Join Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation for our annual [Scholarship Luncheon](#) on May 22, 2025, at the Sheraton Minneapolis Downtown Convention Center, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

- **Did you know:** Since 2006, HMEF has awarded nearly \$1 MILLION to students pursuing careers in culinary arts and hospitality management. What to expect: This year is significant because HMEF is launching our newest scholarship, the Sue Zelickson Scholarship, to it's first ever recipients!

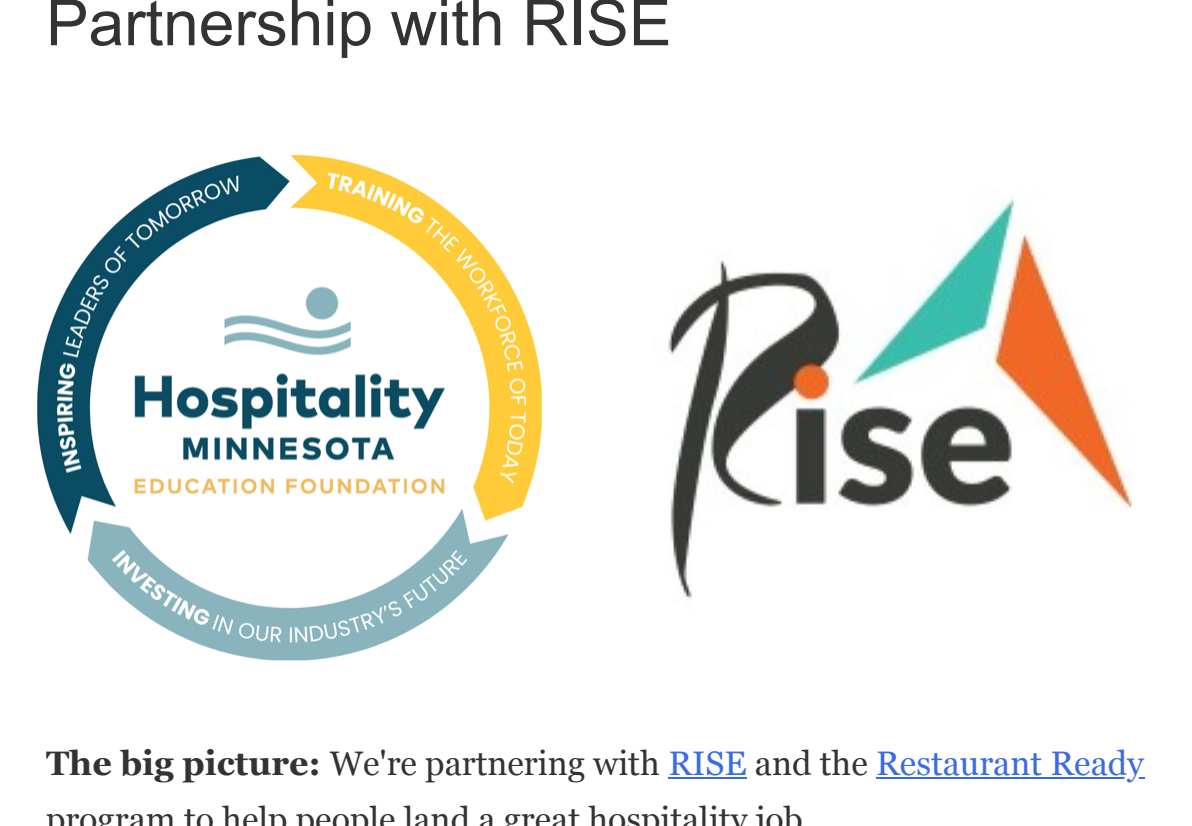
Why it matters: Managed through the Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation in collaboration with [Women Who Really Cook](#), this award provides critical scholarships to women pursuing careers in culinary, hospitality, foodservice, food science, food systems and other food-related fields.

- **Yes, and:** This year, our scholarship luncheon is coming to the brand new [Sheraton Downtown Minneapolis Convention Center](#), which opens in April after several months of renovation. The bottom line: You don't want to miss out on this celebration of the future of our industry.

[Learn More & Register!](#)

Give back: If you would like to donate toward our scholarship fund, [click here](#).

Get Your Next Position Filled: Attend a Job Fair



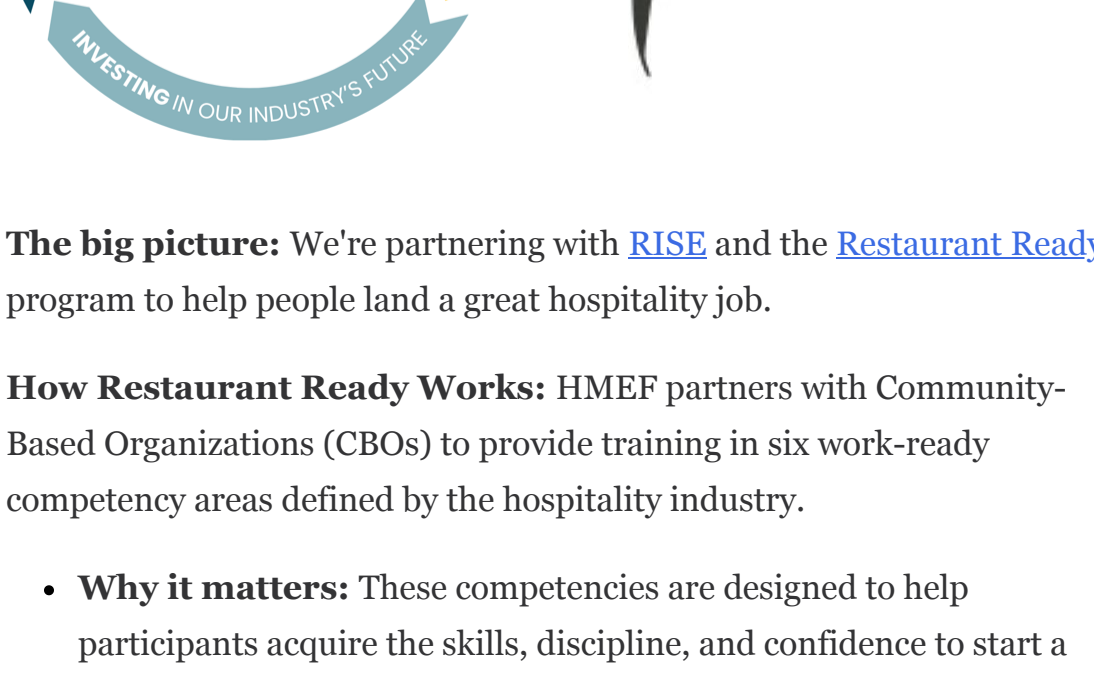
Did you know: Minnesota currently has [30,000 unfilled hospitality jobs](#).

Get involved: One of the most effective hiring tools for employers is participating in job fairs. It's a great way to engage with people looking to work.

- **Stay connected:** Bookmark this link to the state's [CareerForce](#) events calendar, which is updated regularly with Job Fairs!

Go deeper: If you're new to job fairs or would like to learn more - contact [Dillon](#) for more information.

HMEF Kick-Starts Workforce Partnership with RISE



The big picture: We're partnering with [RISE](#) and the [Restaurant Ready](#) program to help people land a great hospitality job.

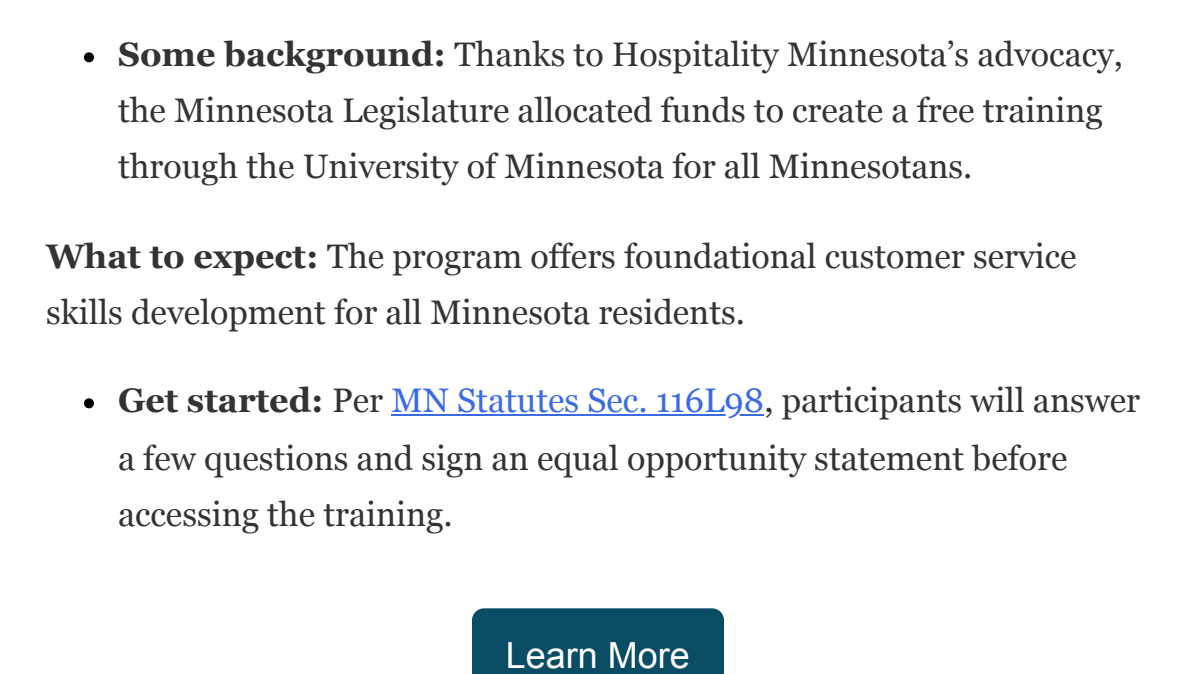
How Restaurant Ready Works: HMEF partners with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to provide training in six work-ready competency areas defined by the hospitality industry.

- **Why it matters:** These competencies are designed to help participants acquire the skills, discipline, and confidence to start a job and stay employed.

HMEF'S Role: Our Foundation links local employers to community-based organizations tasked to develop our workforce through providing wrap-around training services to eliminate any barriers to success.

Get involved: If you're hiring - we're working with active jobseekers. Contact [Dillon](#) for more information

Enroll Today in Free Hospitality and Online Customer Service Training



Did you know: Hospitality Minnesota and the University of Minnesota's Tourism Center proudly offer a [free online customer service training program](#)!

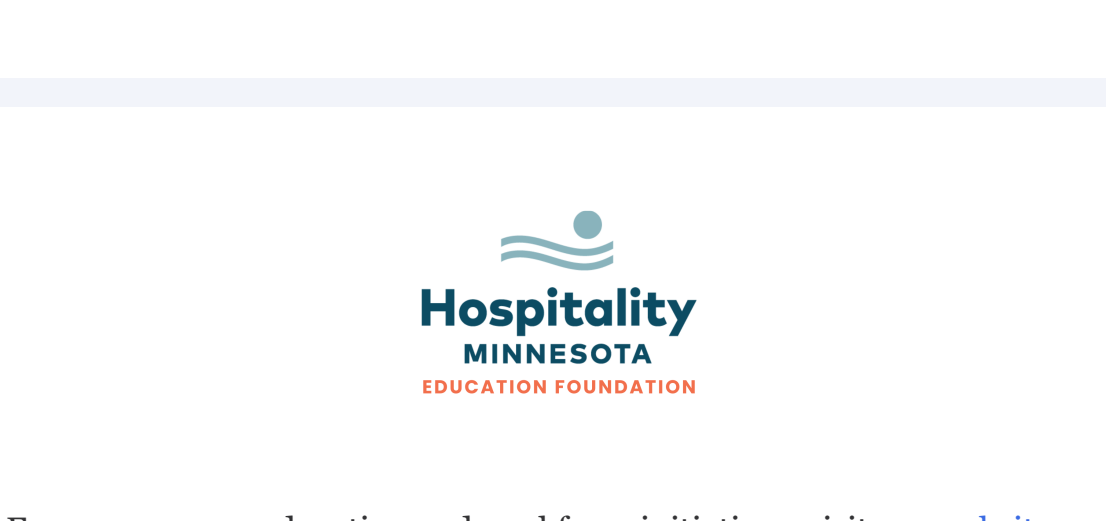
- **Some background:** Thanks to Hospitality Minnesota's advocacy, the Minnesota Legislature allocated funds to create a free training through the University of Minnesota for all Minnesotans.

What to expect: The program offers foundational customer service skills development for all Minnesota residents.

- **Get started:** Per [MN Statutes Sec. 116L98](#), participants will answer a few questions and sign an equal opportunity statement before accessing the training.

[Learn More](#)

Get ServSafe Certified This Month with Food Safety Guy



Hospitality Minnesota has partnered with FoodSafetyGuy to bring you exclusive discounts on ServSafe Food Protection Manager certification courses, materials, exams, and recertification.

Why it matters:

- **Gain Industry-Recognized Credentials:** ServSafe is the gold standard in food safety training, trusted by professionals worldwide.
- **Boost Confidence & Compliance:** Enhance your knowledge and ensure your establishment meets all food safety regulations.
- **Exclusive Member Benefits:** Enjoy discounted rates on courses, materials, and exams.

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